SHOOTING IGNITES RIOTS IN GREECE, PG 9

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TORONTO • MONDAY DECEMBER 8 2008
metronews.ca

Celebrity pg 28

Nicole wants Joel to shed daddy weight

Taxpayer tab for junkets tops $1M

PARLIAMENT MPs and senators quietly tabled reports for $354,509 worth of junkets abroad before the fall session of Parliament ended abruptly for an extended Christmas break.

The reports show all parties shared excursions to exotic destinations. Combined with 19 excursions by groups of MPs and the Speakers of the Senate and House of Commons reported earlier, the trips bring the bill for international parliamentary travel to $1,077,184 so far for 2008.

A lobby group for small business says many trips amount to unnecessary spending that should be trimmed as Canadians face layoffs.

A $123,604 voyage in April to Bali, Indonesia, stands out when four senators, five MPs and a staff of three began a six-day visit to Nusa Dua, site of the 2007 UN climate-change conference, for an assembly of the Interparliamentary Union. Airfare alone came to $95,642.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada pg 8

Dion headed for early exit?

Going Green pg 16

How about a bailout for the Earth?

ShareYourViews
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Bills vs. Dolphins **NFL comes to Canada**

DAVID DUPREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buffalo Bills' Ko Simpson, bottom, tackles Miami Dolphins' Ricky Williams, formerly of the Toronto Argonauts, during yesterday's NFL game at the Rogers Centre. The Dolphins won 16-3 in the first-ever regular-season NFL game to be played in Canada. More coverage, page 3 & 14.

Guilty verdict in Creba trial

Lawyer to appeal conviction in 2005 Boxing Day slaying

A jury has convicted the first man to be tried in the brazen Boxing Day 2005 shootout that claimed the life of schoolgirl Jane Creba.

The 20-year-old man, who can only be identified as J.S.R., appeared surprised yesterday as he heard the jury foreperson declare him "guilty" of second-degree murder.

Creba's family was not at the University Avenue courthouse and issued no statement. But lead investigator Det.-Sgt. Savas Kyriacou told reporters they had told him they were pleased with the result.

Defence lawyer Gary Grill was incredulous at the verdict, which surprised several observers.

"We've never, ever, ever had a stronger defence case," Grill said outside the courthouse. "We're obviously going to be appealing. We maintain our client's innocence and we will not stop fighting as far as we can go in order to make sure that everyone knows that he indeed is innocent."

Dressed in a grey T-shirt and sweatpants, J.S.R. sat and quietly stared ahead after hearing the verdict. He returns Thursday to set a date for sentencing.

Justice Ian Nordheimer, the trial judge, has yet to rule if J.S.R., who was 17 when Creba died, will be sentenced as an adult or youth. If he's sentenced as an adult, he will get life in prison with no eligibility for parole for seven years for the murder conviction.

If sentenced as a youth, he will get seven years, no more than four of which would usually be served in custody, with the remainder under conditional supervision "in the community."

He has spent almost three years in pre-trial custody.

His is the first of three trials of nine males accused in the Yonge Street slaying of the 15-year-old Riverdale Collegiate student.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Other charges

- Besides the second-degree murder conviction, the jury also convicted J.S.R. of five weapons charges and two counts of aggravated assault in the wounding of two of the 12 males who faced off on crowded Yonge Street, near the Eaton Centre.

Fallen soldiers to travel Highway of Heroes today

MILESTONE Hundreds of people are expected to gather along Canada's Highway of Heroes today to pay tribute to the latest three soldiers to fall in Afghanistan, marking both their sacrifice and the grim milestone of 100 soldiers killed on active duty during the mission.

The bodies of Warrant Officer Robert John Wilson, Pte. Demetrios Diplaros and Cpl. Mark Robert McLaren, who were killed Friday by an explosive device near Kandahar, will make the journey from CFB Trenton to a coroner's office in downtown Toronto.

Among those attending the repatriation ceremony at Trenton will be Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, Minister of National Defence Peter MacKay and Chief of Defence Staff General W.J. Natynczyk.

The bodies are set to arrive at Trenton around 2 p.m. Hearses are expected to leave around 3 p.m. and, depending on traffic and speed, reach Oshawa at about 4:15 p.m., Scarborough at about 4:45 p.m. and the coroner's building on Grosvenor Street in Toronto at about 5:15 p.m.

The public shows of grief and tribute displayed along the 172-kilometre motorcade route has grown to the point where media in other countries, including Britain, have remarked on it and wondered why its fallen soldiers aren't shown the same respect.

"The public response to the casualties, I think, has been quite extraordinary," said Canadian military historian Jack Granatstein.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Grim milestone fires up Afghanistan debate at metronews.ca/canada

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TORONTO

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Livegreen Toronto

Man dead after crash on QEW
A 20-year-old Mississauga man is dead after a single-vehicle crash around 1 a.m. yesterday on the westbound QEW at Walker's Line in Burlington. Police are trying to figure out why the car veered off the highway, striking a guardrail before smashing into a light post on the right shoulder. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Brampton man beats record

Brampton resident Jagjit Singh, left, was to be presented with a certificate yesterday for the Guinness World Record for Longest Drumming Marathon — Individual to recognize his record-breaking 110 hours of playing tabla. Singh, a music teacher, eclipsed the previous record of 101 hours during an official attempt lasting five days from Oct. 3 to Oct. 7, 2007, playing the pair of hand drums.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Tomorrow's Metro

Health
Teens are never too young to learn about the dangers of unprotected sex, columnist Josey Vogels says.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Read Guidy Mamann's latest analysis of immigration issues at **metronews.ca/immigration**

Lotteries

Friday, Dec. 5
Lotto Super 7: 8, 9, 14, 16, 18, 29 & 42. Bonus 35
Saturday, Dec. 6
Lotto 6/49: 4, 8, 29, 37, 40 & 48. Bonus 45
Sunday, Dec.7
Ontario Pick 3: 8 5 1; **Ontario Pick 4** : 0 3 9 4
Encore: 2815496; **Daily Keno:** 3, 5, 10, 14, 19, 20, 25, 31, 32, 36, 38, 46, 47, 49, 53, 54, 58, 61, 63, 66 These results are not official.

Husband faces murder charge

Woman slain in west-end home

A 52-year-old construction company operator faces a charge of second-degree murder in the fatal stabbing of his wife in their west Toronto home early Saturday.

Mladen Praljak, 52, woke up in hospital yesterday guarded by police officers, recovering from what appeared to be self-inflicted stab wounds, said lead investigator Det. Mary Vruna.

Zdenka (Anne) Praljak, 53, was found barely alive in the Strathnairn Ave. home, near Keele Street and Eglinton Avenue West, along with her bleeding husband, by an elderly woman who called 9-1-1 at about 5 a.m.

Neighbours say the couple had been living in the home for about eight years with Zdenka's mother, Mary.

The pair were taken to hospital, where Zdenka died from her wounds sustained in what police have called a domestic dispute. An autopsy was performed yesterday.

Vruna said Mladen was conscious and alert in hospital yesterday but she wouldn't say if he had spoken to police.

Zdenka Praljak was killed on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Established by Parliament in 1991, it marks the anniversary of the murders of 14 women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal in 1989. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

69th homicide

- The slaying brings Toronto's 2008 homicide count to 69.
- Neighbours said Zdenka had worked in retail until a couple of years ago.

News in brief

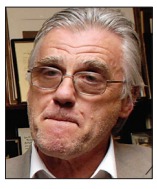
CHARGED Embattled Vaughan Mayor Linda Jackson's husband was charged early yesterday with causing a disturbance by being drunk in a public place. Police went to Berlin Nightclub near Jane Street and Highway 7 at 1 a.m. when bouncers called complaining about Mario Campese. He was arrested and later released from jail yesterday.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JIM WILKES/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Argonauts CEO Mike (Pinball) Clemons prepares to hand out some of the 1,200 free turkeys in an annual giveaway at Honest Ed's yesterday.

Honest Ed GM marks 50 years

More than 100 of Russell Lazar's close friends got together yesterday to celebrate his 50-year career at Honest Ed's, but the department store's general manager didn't show up until he'd helped David Mirvish hand out 1,200 turkeys and fruitcake to folks who had lined up for hours to claim a frozen bird in the store's annual giveaway.



Russell Lazar

Toronto Argonauts CEO Mike (Pinball) Clemons, OPP Commissioner Julian Fantino and Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone also helped store staff distribute turkeys and cake, before heading to the party to join other pals like boxer George Chuvalo.

Lazar said he has great memories of Honest Ed, who died last year. "He always treated me well," he said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tailgate with touch of Canada

NFL GAME Some party.

No tailgates. No Hibachis. No bring your own booze.

But when the temperature is below freezing and a cold north wind is whipping through a beer tent in the parking lot, you do the best you can to hang on to your drink and chomp down the buffalo beef sandwich before it turns rock hard.

Before fans crammed into Rogers Centre yesterday to watch the first-ever regular-season NFL game played in Canada — between the Buffalo Bills and the Miami Dolphins — hundreds crowded into beer tents erected in an empty lot near the stadium for a Tailgate Party, Canada style.

Instead of bringing their own barbecues, fans were treated to a beer garden, with rock music and flat panel TVs.

"It's not bad for a first try, but as far real tailgates go, you have a long way to go," Buffalo resident Tyler Runnings, 21, said.

At the real tailgates back in Buffalo, Runnings and his friends are used to driving to the stadium and grilling their own burgers, and drinking their own beers in the parking lot.
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Talks aim to stave off nurses strike

The Ontario Nurses' Association and Community Care Access Centres are meeting with a Ministry of Labour mediator this morning in an effort to stave off job action that could leave 23,000 clients in North York and York region scrambling for access to vital home care services. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Dad dies of wounds

Rick Kelly joins wife, son as victim of party rampage

Even though police had removed the yellow tape cordoning off a south Oshawa townhouse, and the blood-soaked apartment had been cleaned up, the victims of a horrendous crime committed there a week ago continue to die.

Instead of returning home Saturday, Rick Kelly joined his wife, Leslie, and their three-year-old son Nathan as the latest victim to die from stab wounds inflicted by 47-year-old Gino Petralia on Nov. 29.

Kelly, who was apparently stabbed in the back of the head during the attack at a birthday party for his 11-year-old son Brandon, died in hospital early Friday morning.

"They spent 55 minutes trying to revive him and his heart started five more times, but it just gave out," said a relative, who declined to give his name. "It was a blood clot to the main artery that leads to his heart."

Leslie Kelly died of multiple stab wounds the night of the attack. Police later fatally shot Petralia, who had a violent history.

Everyone, including police, expected Rick to recover. He was supposed to be home to spend Christmas with his two children — Brandon and five-year-old Riley, who is recovering from stab wounds in hospital — and his half-brother, Steven. The Kellys received custody of Steven after his mother, who was also Rick's mother, died in August.

This undated family photo taken from the Facebook page Rest in Peace Leslie Kelly shows Rick and Leslie Kelly with their children Nathan, front, Riley, right, and Brandon, left, and Rick's half-brother, Steven McLean, top.

"(Rick Kelly) was looking forward to putting this all behind him and being strong for his boys."
Close family friend

From his hospital bed, Rick had called and messaged friends on Facebook to tell them how excited he was to see his sons, a close family friend said.

"His boys were always at the front of his mind. ... We talked about what the kids wanted for Christmas. I got this big list and I promised him I would make sure they got cared for," said the woman, declining to give her name.

"He was looking forward to putting this all behind him and being strong for his boys. Then he took a turn for the worse."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Many drivers look for easy road tests

LICENSING Ontario drivers who take their road tests in Brampton fail at nearly five times the rate of drivers in Sault Ste. Marie.

Drivers who test in Oakville fail at twice the rate of drivers in Kingston. Even within the GTA, drivers who test at some locations fail significantly more often than drivers at others.

The rumours that have circulated for years among the province's driver's ed students are correct: There is indeed such a thing as a relatively easy or relatively difficult place to take a road test, government figures obtained via a freedom of information request confirm.

Between 2006 and the first three weeks of 2008, seven DriveTest locations in the GTA were among the 10 in the province that passed the lowest percentage of drivers.

Variations in difficulty at test locations create a potentially dangerous loophole in the province's road safety regime, said driving instructors and Brian Patterson, president of the Ontario Safety League.

Failure rates in GTA

- Failure rates were highest in Brampton (48 per cent), at a since-moved location in Scarborough (47 per cent), and in Oakville (45 per cent). They were substantially lower in Oshawa (32 per cent) and Burlington (27 per cent).

"You get a 17-year-old or 18-year-old ... They go up to Aurora because they hear there are a couple easy examiners, or just the test or the route itself is easy," said Tom Blyth, a former examiner and now owner of driving school ExExaminers.com.

"So they pass their test. They're immediately eligible for the 401. Even jumping onto the 400 heading south on your way home from the test in Aurora — that's not a parallel thing. That's very different."

The ministry of transportation did not agree the variation in failure rates makes the province's streets more dangerous, saying Ontario has some of the highest testing standards in the world.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Charred body found in car

PICKERING Police are investigating how a body came to be in a burning vehicle in Pickering.

Firefighters who responded to a report of a blazing vehicle about 8:30 a.m. Saturday found the body after extinguishing the fire.

A Durham Regional Police spokesperson said they have not yet identified the remains found in the charred wreckage.

"Detectives are now trying to confirm the identity of the person found inside the burned vehicle and will wait for a post-mortem examination to help determine the cause of death," Durham police officer Dave Selby said in a statement.

This is the second burned body found in the past month. The first was found on Nov. 7 in a field near Barrie. Three men have been charged with second-degree murder in that case.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Det. Mitch Martin at 1-888-579-1520, ext. 5405, or Crime Stoppers, 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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TORONTO

(foam cup)

(foam takeout)

(foam egg carton)

(foam meat tray)

(plastic bag)

Livegreen Toronto

Furnace fire destroys home

An Oakville family of four is homeless after its Dunwoody Drive home erupted in flames apparently started by a defective furnace yesterday. Damage is estimated at $450,000. Police say the fire was hard to control because of strong winds and ice. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Road clear for ZENN

Province OKs low-speed cars

Low-speed vehicles such as the ZENN electric car are finally going to be allowed on Ontario roads.

Transportation Minister Jim Bradley said Friday such city commuter vehicles would be roadworthy — once equipped with additional safety features.

Low-speed vehicles "are a new kind of vehicle and it will take a new set of standards to allow them to be safely driven on Ontario roads," he said.

Bradley said the regulations for less environmentally damaging cars, which travel at speeds up to 40 km/h, would be based on recommendations made in a National Research Council study.

Unlike golf carts, the cars would have to be equipped with doors, windshield wipers, defoggers, three-point seatbelts, four-wheel brakes, safety glass and other features.

However, infants and children would probably not be allowed to ride in the cars.

Toronto-based ZENN, which stands for Zero Emission No Noise, had its much-heralded car approved for use in Quebec in July. The $16,000 vehicle can travel for up to 80 kilometres on one charge.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ZENN moment

- The ZENN can be recharged anywhere by simply plugging into a standard electrical outlet and can be ready to go in as little as four hours, the company says.

Weather **Cold, windy day**

LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A lone man waits for a bus near the TransAlta Cogeneration plant in Mississauga where steam blew sideways yesterday as strong winds gusted across the GTA, making –9C feel more like –20C. Expect flurries today with a high of –1C.

News in brief

ZAMBONIS The City of Toronto has added two battery-powered ice-resurfacing machines. One is already in use at Scarborough's Centennial Ice Galaxy arena. A second will be delivered this week to Bill Bolton arena, replacing the gas-powered Zambonis that arenas have used for decades.

FALLING STEEL Chunks of steel weighing several kilograms each broke off a truck's trailer and struck a minivan on the Queen Elizabeth Way Friday. The occupants of the van, a 34-year-old Burlington woman and her three young children, were not injured.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Competition Bureau acting against consumer-rebate scams
The federal Competition Bureau wants to crack down on consumer rebates, which are growing in popularity, but are also ripe for abuse. It has set up a special research group and will issue a bulletin that warns businesses against false and misleading rebate ads — and tries to arm shoppers against deceptive practices. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Canada

Crime groups threat to markets

Organized crime has become a significant threat to Canada's capital markets, says a new report from the RCMP's fraud squads. Major crime groups are recruiting investment professionals to help them move far beyond traditional activities — smuggling, extortion and counterfeiting — into the rarefied world of high finance and market manipulation, say the Mounties.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liberals want new leader by January

Federal Liberals are moving to dramatically expedite their leadership contest to have a new leader in place by the time Parliament returns on Jan 26.

That would give Canadians an "alternative" to Prime Minister Stephen Harper in time for a key budget vote and at a time when a Liberal-led coalition is making its case to take over government, one party strategist said.

The push for a hasty contest to replace current leader Stéphane Dion got a big boost yesterday when the two frontrunners — Toronto MPs Michael Ignatieff and Bob Rae — both voiced support for moving ahead the leadership selection from May 2.

"There's an emerging feeling in the caucus that, given the importance of this vote in late January, it would be appropriate to have a permanent leader in place," Ignatieff told CTV's Question Period yesterday.

> **"Given the importance of this vote in late January, it would be appropriate to have a permanent leader in place."**
> Michael Ignatieff

Rae said the dramatic events in Parliament in the last week and a half have forced the Liberals to look at a new timetable for their leadership choice.

"We need to have a leadership race moved up and we need to make sure that we've got a broad consultation with the party before the end of January," Rae said, also speaking on Question Period.

But just how and when the Liberals can select a new leader has not yet been decided.

Rae yesterday spoke out against any move to have the leadership selected in a backroom process that ignores party grassroots.

Instead, he said, there could be an accelerated contest with televised debates and a vote by members by the third week of January.

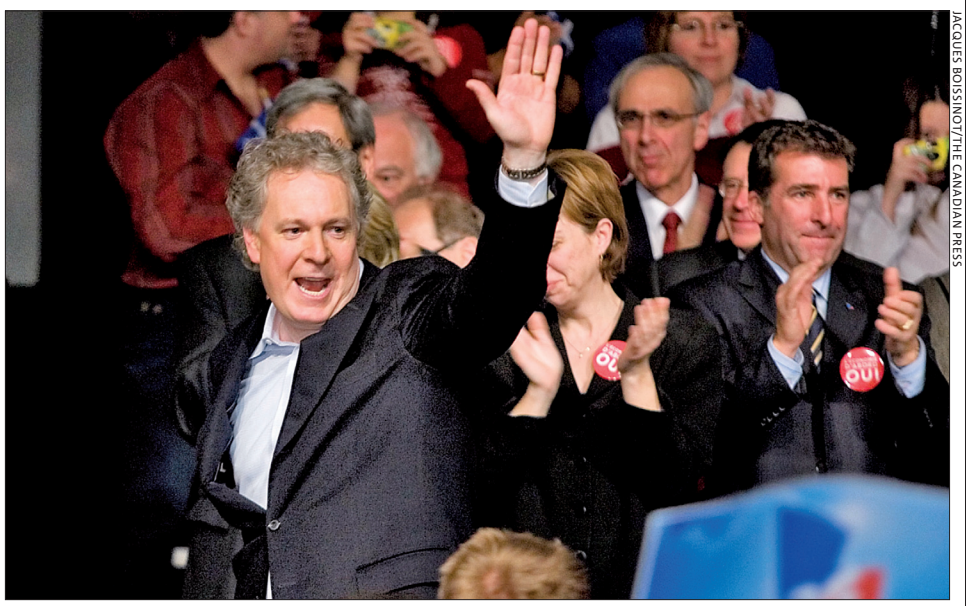
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Charest poised to win majority in Quebec

ELECTION Quebec Premier Jean Charest is poised for his third consecutive win today, with the fallout from Ottawa's ongoing crisis appearing to have strengthened both the federalist Liberal premier and the sovereigntist Bloc Québécois.

When Prime Minister Stephen Harper lashed out last week at the Bloc for "trying to break up the country" by supporting the Liberal-NDP coalition, there were brief signs his perceived Quebec-bashing would push votes to the flagging Parti Québécois and leader Pauline Marois.

But polls continue to show Charest on the verge of turning a minority into a healthy majority. On Saturday, a poll by Léger Marketing put the Liberals at 45 per cent of the vote, the PQ at 32 per cent and Mario Dumont's Action démocratique du Québec trailing with 15 per cent.



JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jean Charest waves to supporters at a campaign rally yesterday in Quebec City.

A thousand Montrealers who showed up to cheer Bloc leader Gilles Duceppe at a coalition rally on Saturday largely expressed support for Charest.

"He hasn't made any major gaffes and a lot of people are fed up with the PQ," said teacher Jean-Michel Régimbal.

Pauline Poupart, a pensioner, said it's "scandalous what Mr. Harper did, pitting Canadians against Quebecers." She intends to vote for Charest because she thinks he's done a good job as the premier.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quebec winter-tire law creates national shortage

SUPPLY Quebec's new winter-tire law has Canadian drivers feeling a chill as far as the West Coast.

Tire distributors and retailers are reporting shortages of many sizes of winter tires as tire inventory rolled eastward to Quebec.

Spot shortages of winter tires aren't uncommon, given Canadians' penchant for demanding winter rubber just as the first snowflakes fall.

But it seems worse than usual this year, says Dean Andrews, manager of a Fountain Tire outlet in Prince George, B.C.

"I don't know what's going to happen next year" if other provinces follow Quebec's lead in making winter tires mandatory, he said.

Quebec passed the law last year, mandating all vehicles must be equipped with winter tires from Dec. 15 to March 15. This is the first year the regulation takes effect and ignoring it can earn a minimum $200 fine plus demerit points.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nixon, Trudeau discussion caught on long-lost tape

DISCOVERY A scratchy, long-lost recording reveals a rambling Richard Nixon struggling to discuss trade issues in the Oval Office with a wily and eloquent Pierre Trudeau, someone the president had referred to hours earlier as a "son of a bitch."

During the two-hour conversation, Trudeau serves up a miniature lecture on economics to the president about the Nixon administration's controversial shift towards more protectionist practices against its trading partners, including Canada.

This chat later prompted the sputtering Nixon to call Trudeau a "pompous egghead." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

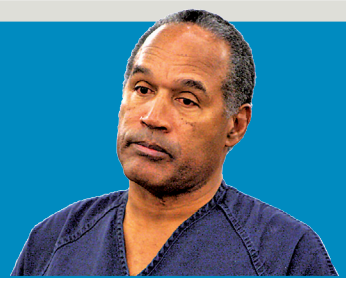
News in brief

HEALTH Ontario Nurses' Association case managers and support staff have narrowly rejected a tentative contract settlement with Central Community Care Access Centres. A Ministry of Labour mediator will meet with ONA and CCAC representatives today to try to avert a potential strike, which could affect 23,000 Ontarians.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

China protests to France over Dalai Lama meeting with Sarkozy
Chinese state media say Beijing has lodged a strong protest against French President Nicolas Sarkozy's meeting with the Dalai Lama. Sarkozy met the Tibetan spiritual leader on Saturday behind closed doors in Gdansk, Poland. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World



Simpson appealing conviction

O.J. Simpson's new home will be a prison cell in the Nevada desert with his door to freedom awaiting an appeal of a trial that his lawyers say was filled with errors. "There were some grave errors made by Judge (Jackie) Glass, and we think they are strong enough to overturn the conviction," Yale Galanter, Simpson's lawyer, said. Simpson was sentenced Friday to nine to 33 years in prison for an armed robbery in a Las Vegas hotel room. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rioters rampage in Greece

Rioters rampaged through Athens and the northern city of Thessaloniki yesterday, hurling Molotov cocktails, burning stores and blocking city streets with flaming barricades as protests against the fatal police shooting of a 16-year-old boy erupted into chaos.

Youths wearing hoods smashed storefronts and cars in Athens. Riot police responded with tear gas while the fire department rushed to extinguish blazes.

Several bank branches, stores and at least one building were on fire on a major street leading to the capital's police headquarters. Clashes also broke out near Parliament.

Streets quickly emptied as word of the violence spread. Local media reported several people sought treatment for breathing problems.

THANASSIS STAVRAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters throw stones at riot police during clashes in central Athens yesterday.

Violence often breaks out during demonstrations in Greece between riot police and anarchists. The anarchists often take refuge inside university buildings or campuses, where police are barred from entering under Greek law.

The circumstances surrounding the shooting of the teenager were initially unclear. Police said the two officers involved claimed they were attacked by a group of youths, and that three gunshots and a stun grenade were fired in response.

Interior Minister Prokopis Pavlopoulos promised there would be a thorough investigation into the teenager's death and pledged to punish anyone found responsible.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Suspensions

- The two officers involved in the shooting have been suspended pending the outcome of the investigation, as has the police chief in the Exarchia precinct.

Nearly 3 million Muslims converge for hajj ritual

SAUDI ARABIA Nearly three million Muslims converged on a rocky desert hill outside Mecca yesterday to perform the ritual of forgiveness marking the climax of the annual hajj.

Chants of "at thy service, my God," reverberated through the valley as the pilgrims stood to pray for God's forgiveness in the most spiritual moment of the entire pilgrimage.

But thousands of others — mostly Iranians, Lebanese, Iraqis and Bahrainis — held a rally inside their tents to denounce the United States and Israel.

An Iranian-sponsored anti-U.S. protest — called the "disavowal of pagans ceremony" — is held annually at the hajj, bringing a whiff of politics into what is otherwise an entirely religious event.

Saudi Arabia warned before the start of the pilgrimage that it would not tolerate any anti-U.S. demonstrations, but the rally was apparently permitted because it stayed inside the tents.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

IRAQ U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is taking responsibility for the troubled U.S. occupation in Iraq after Saddam Hussein was overthrown. She says the U.S. took the wrong approach by putting the Pentagon solely in charge of running Iraq. Rice was the national security adviser when the war began in 2003. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Best in buyer's remorse

HineSight

Anne Hines

Harvey reports, "The stupidest thing I ever bought was a weight-loss book called The Grapefruit Diet." His second dumbest purchase? Twenty pounds of grapefruit.

Last week, I wrote about a foolish, impulsive purchase I recently made — a birdbath heater. I invited you all to e-mail me tales of your silliest purchases.

Here are the results:

• 43 per cent of e-mails received came from readers wanting to know where they too could buy a birdbath heater. A special shout-out to Bruce in Dartmouth, who reported he'd gone online and sourced out several different models of heaters. This is diligent, resourceful work, Bruce. It's missing the point of the exercise entirely, but it's diligent and resourceful.

• 21 per cent of respondents shared charming stories of the birdbath heaters they already own and how happy their birds are.

• 0.5 per cent of readers objected to my being gay. Mom, stop sending me e-mails about this.

From those who actually weighed in, here's a cross-country sampling of "less than intelligent purchases we've made."

Chantal from Calgary says the most foolish thing she ever bought was a marriage licence.

"I should have known it was a dumb idea," she said. "It was my third one."

Roman (Ottawa) says he regrets spending money on newspapers, "Since I realized I could get this great paper, the Metro, for free." Ahhhh…

Jennifer (Vancouver) admits to buying a Tile Titan, an electrical device that uses steam to blast bathroom tile scum.

"It made so much steam, my bottle labels fell off. I accidentally washed my hair with body wash for a week. It also removed strips of the bathroom wallpaper."

The only thing not affected? The tile scum.

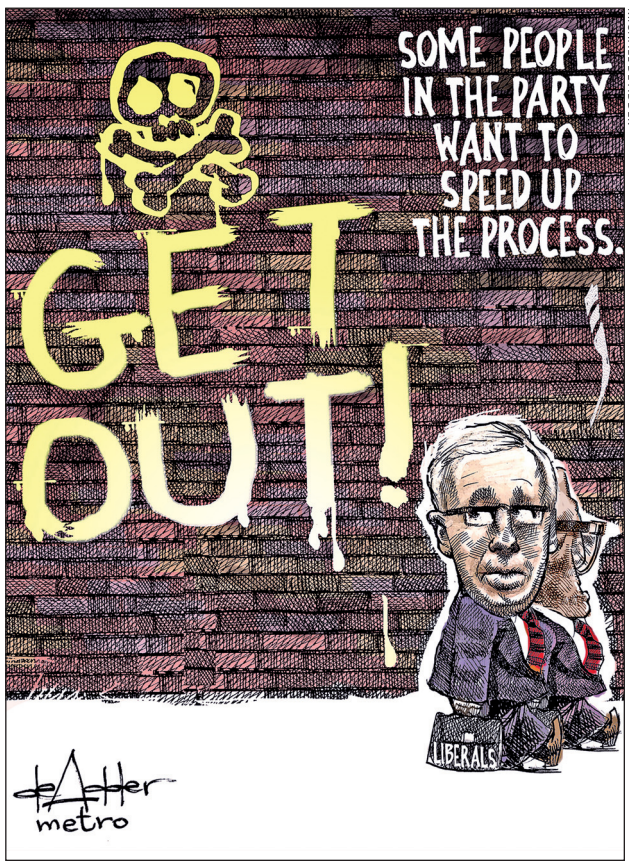
Harvey (Victoria) reports, "The stupidest thing I ever bought was a weight-loss book called The Grapefruit Diet." His second dumbest purchase? Twenty pounds of grapefruit. "By the fourth day, I couldn't stand the sight of them. Fortunately it was Halloween so I just handed them out to the kids. They hated them too."

Carol (Toronto) bought a fashionable chef's cookbook that insisted no cook should be without a mortar and pestle. She lugged one home, only to realize that each recipe calls for a mere ounce or two of freshly ground herbs. Either she had to buy a bunch and let most go to waste or try growing her own, which was akin to "watching plants die."

Carol's solution? Go back to using dried and enjoy her lovely new doorstop.

Finally, Lin (Halifax) says the dumbest thing she bought was "My ex-boyfriend's story about where he spent Friday night." Enough said.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Transit projects rolling toward election day

InTransit

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Quick tip

• Can't squeeze onto overcrowded subway trains? During peak periods scan trains as they enter and leave; and consider moving up or down the platform. For example, some northbound Yonge trains can fit a few more people in the very last subway car. It's worth a look, anyway.

Now that the long-term regional transportation plan known as the Big Move has been approved, how long will it actually take for commuters to experience faster, more reliable rides?

As much as local politicians would love to officially open new lines before municipal elections occur in 2010, they'll mostly have to settle for ceremonial shovels in the ground by that date.

Each community in the greater Toronto region has transit projects on the books — some cheaper and easier to build than others. Subway extensions such as the Spadina line to Highway 7 in Vaughan or the Yonge line to Richmond Hill will take the longest to complete while "rapid transit" routes — either exclusive busways or light rail — can be ready sooner at less cost.

The traditional way of choosing which lines to build first is old-fashioned lobbying. Municipal politicos try to convince upper levels of government to favour their area.

This is going to change, we're told. Each new project must now stand on its merits, with the provincial planning agency Metrolinx deciding the order of priority. Most proposed lines are going to have to pass a "triple bottom line" evaluation by showing real environmental benefits, the biggest bang for the buck (i.e. serving the most riders at the least cost) as well as offering "social impacts" such as boosting employment or local land values.

Because Queen's Park is also interested in opening lines as soon as possible (a provincial election is scheduled in 2011) some corridors may get on the fast track before others are even ready to be evaluated. The federal government is also under pressure to accelerate its infrastructure spending as a way of creating jobs during a recession.

Municipal councils at York Region and the City of Toronto have been moving fast to finalize plans — including the Yonge subway extension and light rail lines on Sheppard Avenue East and Finch Avenue West.

Thankfully these three proposals can an least pass simple cost/benefit tests, something I can't say for long-approved lines like the subway to Vaughan or the Highway 403 bus lanes through Mississauga.

Ed Drass has a degree in urban studies from York University and regularly rides transit in the GTA.

Letters

It's up to consumers to adapt to changing oil prices

Referring to an article on dropping oil prices (Nov. 12), some people may have been happy when oil prices fell below $60 a barrel, which means gasoline prices tumbled as well.

However, expensive oil forces us to be more innovative in searching for alternatives, and it improves efficiency in the way we use our land, how we move around (smaller cars, better transit) and how we make things (companies invest in more energy efficient machinery).

There are many solutions such as don't drive or if you need to drive because you live two hours away from your job, then it's best to move near your work place. I don't see why oil companies need to accommodate our personal preferences.

KAMALIKA BARUA, TORONTO

Clear skies but no bus in sight

I've been a committed transit rider for 15 years and I have to say, the more the fares go up, the more the service goes down. The cost for a monthly metro pass is $109 a month ... tell me Mr. Giambrone, where is my money going? I find myself waiting 12 minutes for a bus that is supposed to arrive every seven minutes. I, like many of my fellow Torontonians, rely on public transportation and in all honesty, it's losing its reliability factor. Don't get me wrong, if there is a snow storm or hail, heck even a tidal wave, I'll be the first to jump to the defence of the TTC, but on a normal day there is absolutely no reason whatsoever that transit riders should have to wait twice the time for a bus.

MELISSA RUSSO, TORONTO

Opposition offers surprise present from the past

Just when Canadians thought they were through yet another federal election and had democratically elected the government of their choice an irresponsible and power mad opposition come up with a surprise Christmas present to oust the Conservatives.

This attempt to take power without a vote is shameful enough but I find it even more distasteful that former prime minister Jean Chrétien and NDP leader Ed Broadbent would have such contempt for democracy as to be involved in this backroom deal.

GERALD HALL, NANOOSE BAY, B.C.

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India announces $4.1 billion US stimulus package

India's prime minister's office has announced a $4.1 billion US stimulus package to boost India's slowing economy. On Saturday, India's central bank slashed its key interest rates by one percentage point. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

Workers occupy factory

About 200 employees laid off from their jobs at a vinyl windows factory in Chicago Friday, have occupied the building and are demanding assurances they'll get severance and vacation pay. During the peaceful takeover, workers have been shovelling snow and cleaning the building. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

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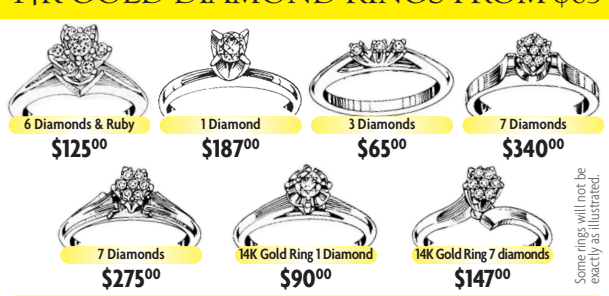

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Carmakers eye rescue

GM, Chrysler, Ford seek $6 billion bailout

The Canadian subsidiaries of the Detroit Three automakers want a total of at least $6 billion in loans and credit lines from the federal and Ontario governments to stay alive, but won't go into much detail on how they would spend the money.

General Motors of Canada is seeking $800 million by year's end and $1.6 billion later, while Chrysler Canada is asking for $1.6 billion, according to sources familiar with the submissions.

GM may need a further $1 billion if vehicle sales continue to slide at a rapid rate, vice-president David Paterson said. Ford Motor Co. of Canada confirmed it would need a "stand-by" line of credit of up to $2 billion, but would use it only if necessary.

The company also urged Ottawa to get into the consumer car loan business and urged both governments, struggling with their own cash crunch, to boost sales through a "tax holiday" on new car purchases. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Oshawa plant

- The move Friday came on the same day GM confirmed it will lay off 700 workers and cut the third shift at its Oshawa car plant indefinitely starting the first week of February.

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RBC reports credit card losses

BANKING Royal Bank of Canada said it is preparing to absorb more credit losses, after posting double-digit declines in both its fourth-quarter and full-year profits.

RBC is the second major bank to disclose higher credit card losses. Earlier, CIBC said it would continue tightening credit card lending in 2009. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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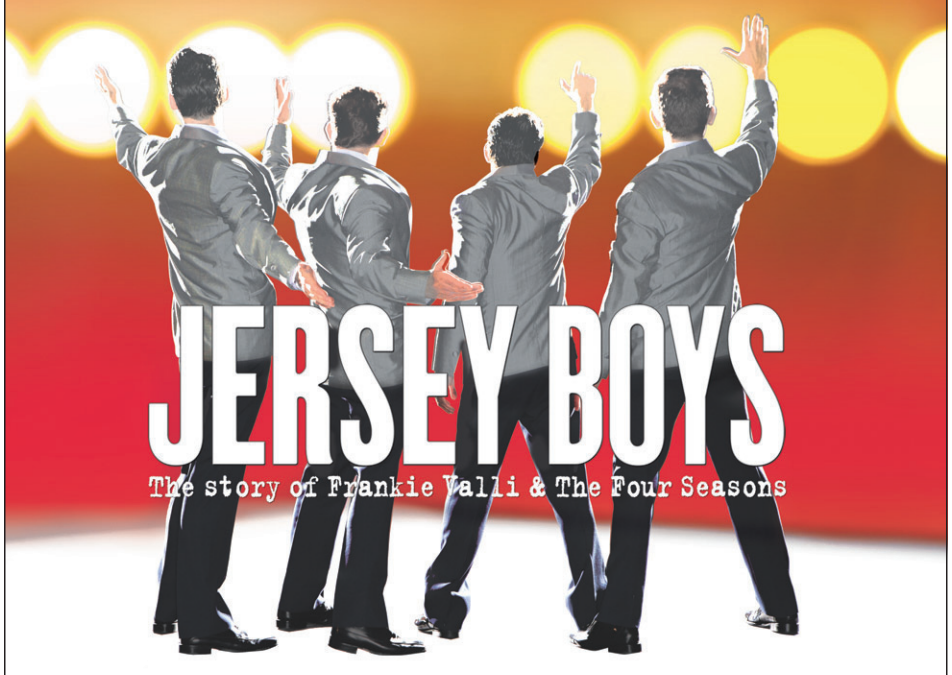

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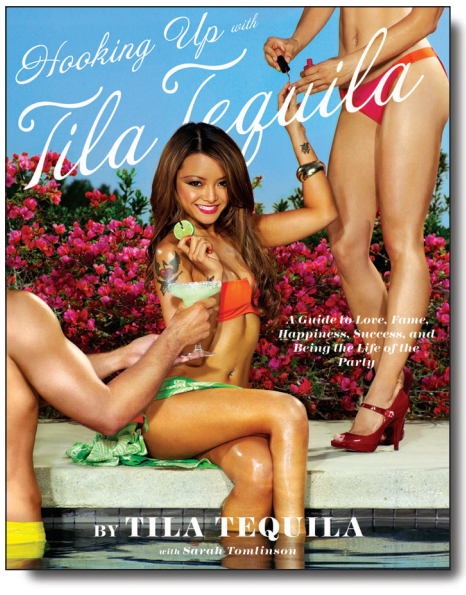

Web and reality television celebrity **Tila Tequila** bares her secrets in this provocative and playful guide to love, relationships, sex, fame, and being the life of the party – just in time to spice things up this holiday season. Join us for a book signing.

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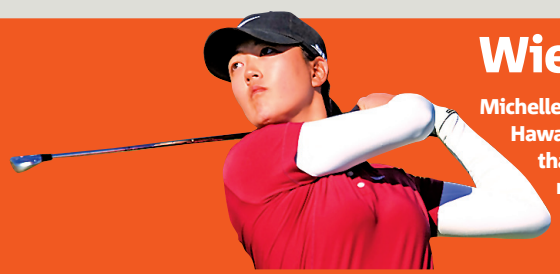
Toronto set to host UConn, Buffalo in bowl game
Connecticut accepted a bid yesterday to play Mid-American Conference champion Buffalo in the International Bowl in Toronto on Jan. 3 at the Rogers Centre. Buffalo shocked previously unbeaten Ball State on Thursday to claim the MAC title. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports



Wie makes the grade

Michelle Wie, left, has earned a spot on the LPGA Tour. The 19-year-old from Hawaii overcame a miserable start yesterday with a safe finish for a 2-over 74 that had her comfortably among the top 20 at the LPGA qualifying tournament. Wie has been playing mostly on sponsor exemptions for the last seven years, when she became a sensation for her youth and power, and her unsuccessful quest to compete against the men. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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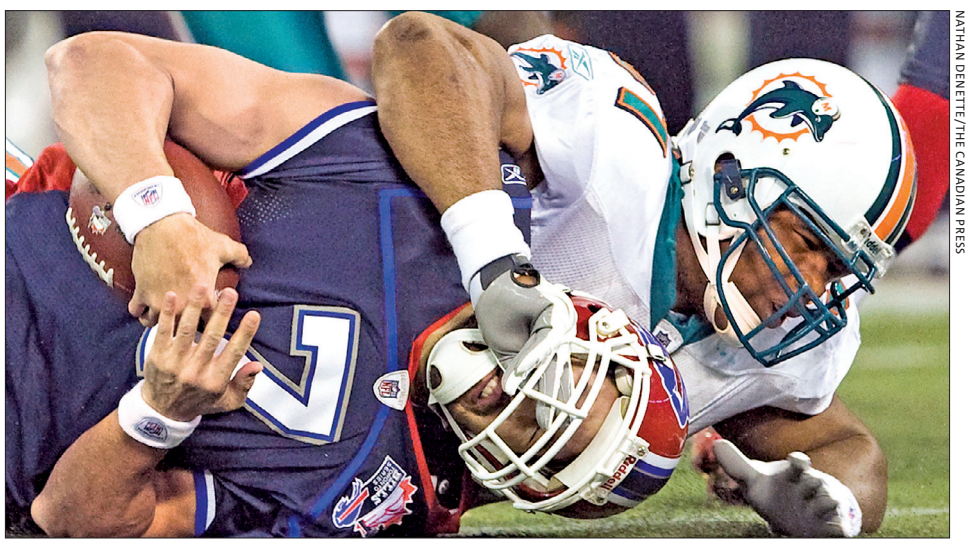
Dolphins dominate Bills

Miami boosted by healthy fan support and closed Rogers Centre

NFL ROUNDUP

Dolphins 16, Bills 3



NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Miami Dolphins linebacker Akin Ayodele, right, gets his hands in the face of Buffalo Bills quarterback JP Losman, left, during first half NFL action at the Rogers Centre in Toronto yesterday.

Even though he was playing far from Miami, in another country no less, Ronnie Brown felt right at home.

The Miami Dolphins running back admitted the prospect of facing arch-rival Buffalo in the first-ever NFL regular-season contest played in Canada was daunting, given he figured the Bills' close proximity to Rogers Centre would make them the overwhelming favourite among Toronto football fans.

That is, until he and the Dolphins went out for the pre-game warmup and were greeted by a healthy representation of aqua and orange in the stands. Brown said that boost helped Miami capture a historic 16-3 win over the Bills yesterday to move into a tie atop the AFC East Division with New England and the New York Jets.

Heady stuff for a Dolphins squad that was the laughing stock of the NFL last year with a dismal 1-15 record.

"Obviously we came up here and Toronto was new scenery for us," said Brown, who ran for a game-high 70 yards on 16 carries. "But we went out and saw the people in aqua and orange and it made a pretty big difference.

"You don't feel like you're playing an away game and you're excited for the support."

Unfortunately for Buffalo, the Rogers Centre roof was closed and the game was played in balmy 22 C conditions, a stark contrast to the bitterly cold (-7C) and windy conditions that were outside of the facility.

Buffalo came into the game with a commanding 7-2 record in games against Miami past Dec. 1. However, the previous ones were all played at Orchard Park, N.Y., where gusting winds and freezing temperatures have proven to be a big hindrance for the warm-weather Dolphins.

The Toronto-based group that secured the games — dubbed Bills Toronto Series — was looking to showcase the city as a viable home for a full-time NFL franchise. However, once again the game wasn't a sellout.

The announced attendance was 52,134 — which certainly seemed generous — and was short of the 54,000-seat capacity Rogers Centre has for football.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Florida, Oklahoma set for title match

FOOTBALL Florida was an up-and-coming power and Oklahoma was a declining one when Bob Stoops made his move. He left his post as Gators defensive co-ordinator to take his first head-coaching job with the Sooners.

Ten years later, both programs are on top. Yesterday, they earned their invitations to play for the BCS national championship on Jan. 8 in Miami.

The final BCS standings had Oklahoma at No. 1 and Florida at No. 2 setting up the first meeting between these storied programs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

BASEBALL Alex Rodriguez is switching sides. The New York Yankees star will play for the Dominican Republic in the 2009 World Baseball Classic, he said Saturday. The American-born infielder played for the U.S. in 2006. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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**ICICI Bank Canada is a member of the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation (CDIC). Only deposits held in Canadian currency, having a term of five years or less and payable in Canada are insurable under the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act.

Ontario's Middaugh wins curling event
Wayne Middaugh captured his eighth career Grand Slam title yesterday with a 4-3 victory over Brad Gushue in the finals of The National curling event. Middaugh's Midland, Ont., rink stole a point in the eighth end to seal the win over Gushue. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Trail Blazers edge Raptors

NBA RESULTS

Portland 98 | **Toronto** 97

Steve Blake and the Portland Trail Blazers spoiled Jay Triano's home debut as the Raptors' head coach yesterday.

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 20 points and Blake added 19, including a key three-pointer with nine seconds left, to lead the Blazers to a 98-97 victory over the Raptors.

Jermaine O'Neal scored a season-high 24 points along with six blocked shots, while Chris Bosh added 19, but it wasn't enough to give Triano his first official win as the Raptors head coach, as the Raptors (8-11) suffered their fourth consecutive loss.

Jose Calderon added 15 points and 13 assists for Toronto, while Joey Graham and Jason Kapono had 10 points apiece off the bench.

The Raptors led by as many as 16 points early in the second quarter, and looked headed for a solid afternoon, but the Blazers battled back to lead by 10 points early in the fourth quarter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

/CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Portland Trail Blazers' Greg Oden, left, shields the ball from Toronto Raptors' Andrea Bargnani, right, during yesterday's game. The Trail Blazers beat the Raptors 98-97.

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Groves, Rempel both get medals

SPEED SKATING Kristina Groves of Ottawa finished second in the women's 1,000 race while Shannon Rempel of Winnipeg finished third yesterday at a long-track speedskating World Cup event in Changchun, China.

Groves, who won Saturday's race, clocked one minute 17.80 seconds to take the silver. Dutchwoman Laurine van Riessen grabbed the gold with a track-record time of 1:17.25, while Rempel finished third in 1:18.27.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

SKIING Nadia Fanchini made winning in Canada a family affair as the Italian skied to victory at the opening women's World Cup super-giant slalom race of the season in Lake Louise, Alta., yesterday, while three Canadians finished in the top 12. Emily Brydon of Fernie, B.C., was sixth, Kelly VanderBeek of Kitchener, B.C., finished seventh and Britt Janyk of Whistler, B.C. was 12th. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Going Green

Recycled steel saves

Canadians recycle steel at a rate of 65 per cent. Every tonne of recycled steel saves 1,131 kilograms of iron ore, 633 kilograms of coal and 54 kilograms of limestone, according to Greeniology: How To Live Well, Be Green And Make A Difference by Tanya Ha.

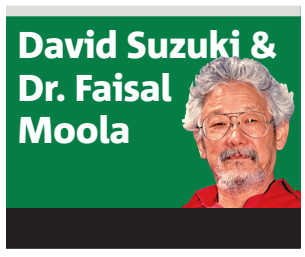
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

What would you do with $4 trillion?

Money handed out to failing companies could be put toward saving the planet

ScienceMatters



Many of you are working to recycle, reduce energy consumption, and improve the world for your families and neighbours. The collective impact of these many small efforts is making a big difference.

Just think what you could do with $4.1 trillion!

That's how much the U.S. and 17 Western European countries are spending to bail out financial institutions involved in an economic crisis that began in the U.S. and soon reverberated around the world. (The final amount will likely be a lot more. It's difficult to fathom such a large number, but consider that one trillion seconds is about 32,000 years!) To top it off, most of the details are secret; we don't really know what the money is being used for — although it probably hasn't stopped your retirement savings funds from plummeting.

The effect on people in developing nations is even worse. Most of them didn't have savings to begin with, and now the economic crisis, coupled with the effects of the climate crisis — including drought and food shortages — is causing more of our human family to suffer from extreme poverty and joblessness.

Just think what they could do with $4.1 trillion!

If we think we needn't worry about what happens to developing nations because it isn't affecting us, we should remind ourselves that, just as everything in nature is connected, so is everything in our global economic and political systems. Increased international job competition and reduced export opportunities are just two of the smaller impacts mentioned in the IPS report.

But the worst meltdown isn't of the global economy. Another report, Climate Safety, from the Public Interest Research Centre, shows the Arctic's late-summer ice is melting much faster than scientists previously predicted and may disappear within three to seven years. The cascading consequences of such an event could be catastrophic.

Just think what we could do with $4.1 trillion!

Instead of giving companies these huge sums of money so they can continue business as usual, buying and selling, merging, and paying their executives obscene salaries and bonuses, we could put it toward renewable energy, sustainable urban planning, and research into ways to lessen the impact of climate change — things that really would stimulate economies.

As citizens, we can and must do everything possible to keep our finite world alive and healthy. Along with the small but important changes we are making in our own lives, we must also call on our leaders to stop downplaying the unequivocal science that tells us failing to quickly address the climate crisis will make the economic crisis seem like a minor blip in history.

We could tell them where to put that $4.1 trillion!

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Dr. David T. Suzuki is a Vancouver-based award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster.

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Capturing carbon dioxide could become an option

Backers say carbon capture and storage could make an important contribution to cutting emissions by mid-century. The idea involves capturing carbon dioxide as power stations spew it out, then pumping it into empty gas and oil wells or aquifers, where it will remain forever. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tories open to national climate targets

The Conservative government is leaving the door ajar for emerging economies like China and India to set their own targets to lower greenhouse gases.

Environment Minister Jim Prentice says he's open to a range of national targets as long as countries can show they're trying to curb emissions.

"It's fair to recognize national circumstances. But I think what underlies this is an intent to see ... a consistency of effort on the part of all of the countries that are emitting," Prentice said.

"That doesn't necessarily mean that everybody has to have exactly the same targets. National circumstances are different. But I think in some way you have to measure equality of effort."

"That doesn't necessarily mean that everybody has to have exactly the same targets. National circumstances are different."
Jim Prentice

Environmentalists say Prentice's remarks are an early sign the Conservative government plans to soften its tone on a new climate-change pact to replace the Kyoto Protocol when it expires in 2012.

Prentice spoke to The Canadian Press before he departs for Poland tomorrow for a round of United Nations climate-change talks.

The summit in the western Polish city of Poznan is a precursor to next year's major climate-change conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, where it's hoped world leaders will agree to a successor to Kyoto.

Clare Demerse of the Pembina Institute, who is in Poznan for the talks, says Canadian officials there have privately indicated Canada will bend a little on a new climate-change accord.

"I definitely see that as a step forward," she said of the government's apparent change in tune. But she added it's only a small step. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cherif Medawar
International Investor & Authority on Commercial Real Estate

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From Hotel Manager to Real Estate Magnate

Cherif Medawar, Founder, Institute of Commercial Real Estate (ICRE)

My education at UCLA taught me how to work for money, but not how to make my money work for me. I was working night and day as a hotel manager in California when a billionaire guest pulled me aside and said, "Cherif, come work for me. I will show you the path to wealth."

I learned how to acquire properties, how real estate deals are structured, and how billions are made. On a much smaller scale, I also began to buy my own properties and develop a personal system for creating wealth.

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York law students return to class
Osgoode Hall Law School students at York University returned to class last week despite the ongoing strike by teaching assistants and contract faculty. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Intellectual daycare
University of Western Ontario professor emeritus Ian Hunter wrote in a column recently appearing in the National Post that he thinks Canadian universities have become a form of daycare where students will never be upset or intellectually challenged. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Chimpanzees, like the one above, have been rescued from zoos and laboratories by Gloria Grow.

Providing a better life, one chimp at a time

OddJobs
Diane Peters

After running a successful grooming business outside Montreal for 19 years, Gloria Grow, upon approaching 40, decided she wanted to do more for animals than make them look good.

She and her veterinarian husband already owned a farm and had begun rescuing rabbits, horses and sheep. She got increasingly involved in animal rights, and heard a speech from Dr. Jane Goodall at a conference; she said there were HIV-positive chimpanzees living in labs across North America who needed homes.

Grow then volunteered to work with chimps at the University of Washington. "I knew then that this was what I wanted to do."

She discovered a lab in New York State that was closing. Using her retirement savings, she built a 10,000 square foot facility on her farm in early 2007. That fall, 15 chimps arrived; some of them had HIV.

The illness wasn't a problem. Chimps can naturally fight the disease, and she just had to take extra care when near their blood or waste. More difficult to handle was the chimps' post-traumatic stress from life in the lab. "When I met them in the lab they were trying their best to be nice. But when I got them here, all hell broke lose," she recalls.

Chimps, which weight around 200 pounds each, are very strong and can become violent, even if they know and like you. Caregivers have been known to lose hands.

In the early days, Grow worked mostly by herself, with the help of family members, and almost never left the farm. Eventually, thanks to media coverage and several documentaries, people started donating to the nonprofit she had created, the Fauna Foundation, and she hired help.

More than ten years later, Grow, now 53, has a staff of ten and spends just three days a week in the chimp house.

These days run from eight until five, with most of the time spent cooking — chimps start their day with smoothies and eat large quantities of a human-like vegetarian diet. There's also the cleaning of the cages, dealing with injuries and taking visitors around. Newcomers have little direct contact with the chimps — who don't like strangers and can get violent.

Grow has become very emotionally connected to her charges, six of which she's seen pass away. She says some of her older residents like Tom and Sue Ellen feel like old, dear friends, while the newer chimps — she's more recently rescued two from zoos, and now has a total of 13 — feel almost like her own children.

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Salary: Around $20 per hour
Best Part of the Job: "The chimps are wonderful. They wear their hearts on their sleeves, they're so true and honest."
Worst Part of the Job: "The sadness of knowing they will never get to hold their own children or be with their own families. That life in captivity day after day will never be any different."

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Support grows for Truro arts institution

World-renowned novelist Margaret Atwood and Toronto theatre producer David Mirvish have thrown their support behind an initiative to establish a post-secondary performing arts school in Truro, N.S. METRO NEWS SERVICES

College head fights binge drinking

President looks to tackle common problem south of the border

It's dime draft night every Thursday at the Diamond Lounge on Main Street, and a dozen or so glassy-eyed students are milling around outside as Lt. Kevin Grove's patrol car passes by.

He hangs a right on Bowery Street, the main drag for off-campus social life at Maryland's Frostburg State University. A few students are walking — some stumbling — up the hill. On porches and through windows, they are visibly holding bottles. But Grove keeps driving. He's looking for fights, accidents and vandalism.

A night earlier, an FSU student was hospitalized, and earlier this semester another nearly died from drinking Everclear, a grain alcohol illegal in a dozen states. She was saved by a quick-thinking fellow student, a resident assistant who recognized trouble signs after friends dropped the woman off at the dorm.

But tonight, at least, Grove won't be calling Frostburg State president Jonathan Gibralter to inform him of a student fatality.

This may be what winning looks like in the battle against destructive binge-drinking on college campuses.

"I don't have any arrogance about this," said Gibralter, whose anti-binge-drinking efforts have attracted attention beyond Frostburg's 5,200-student campus. "I don't feel I have the answers. All I can say is we're trying the best we can. We may be only one party away from a disaster."

Last summer, presidents of more than 100 colleges, including prominent schools like Duke and Ohio State, prompted a heated national debate by calling on lawmakers to rethink the national drinking age of 21. The group, called the Amethyst Initiative, argued current laws only encourage binge-drinking by driving it into the shadows.

But beneath that debate was another contentious one about whether colleges and their presidents are really doing enough to combat alcohol problems. Some who signed on to the Amethyst Initiative insist they've hit a wall. But critics, like the anti-drunken driving group MADD, accused those presidents of "waving the white flag." They said the presidents only want to spare themselves the inconvenience and unpopularity that comes with a serious crackdown.

Gibralter, a quiet, mustachioed man who arrived at Frostburg in 2006, isn't surrendering. Instead, he's pushing a "zero tolerance" policy at an institution with a hard-earned party school reputation. He believes a president's attitude makes a big difference, and thinks other presidents should do more. In early September, he was honoured at an American Council on Education meeting for his leadership on the issue.

The focus is saving lives, not eliminating underage drinking, and the trick is to engage students without alienating them — while planting seeds of caution in their minds he hopes will make a difference when it counts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Job well done?

- Overall, Frostburg State president Jonathan Gibralter may be making modest progress, but the lessons from Frostburg don't fit neatly into categories of "cracking down" versus "giving in" he said. Gibralter has made compromises, like supporting a "safe ride" program he initially opposed for fear it would encourage drinking.

Modest hiring in coming months

EMPLOYMENT The job market in accounting and finance is holding steady, suggests a new survey. Nine per cent of chief financial officers (CFOs) interviewed plan to add full-time employees and 8 per cent expect to decrease the size of their staff, according to the Robert Half International Financial Hiring Index. Eighty-two per cent of executives said they would make no changes to the size of their teams.

In a sign of the current economic climate, the percentage of firms anticipating personnel reductions is at its highest point in the past three years. However, the number of companies expecting to hire is above the average over that same period, reflecting an ongoing need for skilled professionals.

Large companies, in particular, plan to add staff in key specialty areas. Eighteen per cent of respondents at firms with 1,000 or more employees expect to hire in the first quarter, compared to 8 per cent who anticipate decreasing staff levels.

The Robert Half International Financial Hiring Index is based on telephone interviews with more than 1,400 CFOs across the United States.

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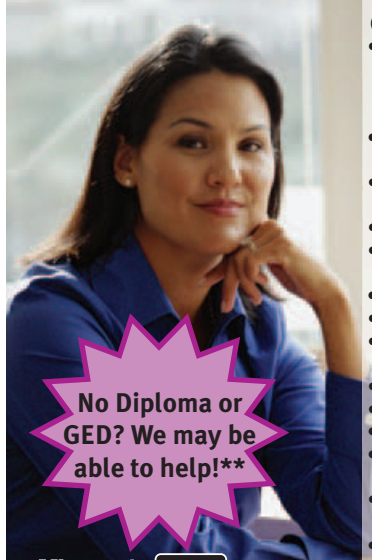

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University 'overreacted' to anti-abortion display, University of Calgary political science professors say
In a joint column published in last Friday's Calgary Herald, a group of University of Calgary political science professors argue that the school "overreacted" in its dealings with a pro-life student group demonstrating on campus last week. METRO NEWS SERVICES

It's possible to make a living making art

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

It is possible to earn an income as an artist says 23-year-old Kate Stone.

The young Edmonton native works out of a four-person studio on Adelaide Street West, painting portraits and still life pieces on commission.

"What's the saying? Early to bed, early to rise, work like hell and advertise," she said, noting that's been her motto since finishing art school two years ago.

She says although it's been challenging to make money producing art, she wants young artists to know it's not impossible.

The most important thing is to believe in yourself, she said.

"You have to have that conviction, even if nobody else has it, because if you don't have it no one else will," she said.

Stone says she knew since she was a teen she wanted to be an artist and despite the fact her parents pushed her toward earning a bachelor's degree, she quit her liberal arts program at the University of Toronto partway through and never looked back.

ROBYN YOUNG/FOR METRO CANADA

Artist Kate Stone, who works out of Adelaide Street studio, is on commission to paint this portrait from a client's photograph.

"You have to have that conviction, even if nobody else has it, because if you don't have it no one else will."
Artist Kate Stone

Spending four years getting an undergrad degree was just delaying the inevitable; she wanted to be an artist.

This is how she ended up at Toronto's Academy of Realist Art where she met her husband and fellow artist Dave Gluck.

He also works as a full-time artist and is now an instructor at the school, which teaches fine art as almost a skilled trade.

"We have the logic that, anybody can, with the proper amount of time and patience and hard work, really achieve at a level of artistic success," said Gluck, who joined Stone for the interview at her funky, downtown studio.

Luckily Stone has talent with the brush as well as balancing the books and only two years out of school, has been able to turn her passion into a viable career.

"We own a house, we pay a mortgage, we do have some adult responsibilities — we're not exactly bohemians," she said, laughing. They just work hard, both said, and plant seeds wherever they go.

Stone said anytime she meets someone new or has the chance to showcase her art, she talks up the business and shoves her card into their hand. Eventually, out of all the seeds planted, some start to grow, said Gluck.

Stone works out of the Adelaide Street Studio with fellow artists and former classmates, Mina dela Cruz, Imam Azhari and Teresa Nice.

While she works mostly on commissioned portraits and still lifes, she's striving to get her name out there through involvement in the community, donating her pieces for special causes and has recently started experimenting with producing copies of her original works to generate more income.

For more information see, adelaidestreetstudio.com.

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$17.5-million expansion for Trent sports facility

Trent University announced a $17.5-million upgrade of its athletics complex. The project features a warm therapeutic pool, an expanded sports medicine centre, and a new convertible rowing and paddling tank. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

College & University 2009

Moving away to go to school is a big decision. You should weigh the pros and cons before setting off.

On your way out?

Moving away to school can be a fresh adventure, but the costs can pile up

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

When starting university, the decision to stay at home or move to a new city is a major one. A fresh adventure in a new place has lots of merits, but comes at a price.

Sebastian Vuong moved from Brampton, Ont., to Halifax to study medicine at Dalhousie University. While the Canadian Forces covered his $5,000 moving bill, he says most medical students take out a $150,000 line of credit to cover costs of living and tuition. He lives with two roommates from Brampton and they struggle to pay the bills.

"They've stated that employment here is not only more difficult to find, but earnings are less," he said. "The cost of living is comparable to Brampton, and less than in Toronto."

Vuong doesn't regret his decision. "I wouldn't want to be anywhere else but here, learning everything I am. I'd never been to the east coast before my move, but I've quickly discovered that Halifax is a great city."

"The choice to leave home is a big decision. Education is a huge investment, and you've really got to sit down and think about what is best for you.
Andrew Murray

Riley Stewart from Waterloo, Ont., is also a first-year medicine student at Dalhousie. He weighed the perks of staying nearer home — the possibility of living with family and the ready-made network of friends — but decided to head east.

"It was mostly the type of community atmosphere," the 25-year-old said. But there was a price to pay. "It cost me a fortune to move down here. Probably with the plane ticket and moving company, it was close to $4,000."

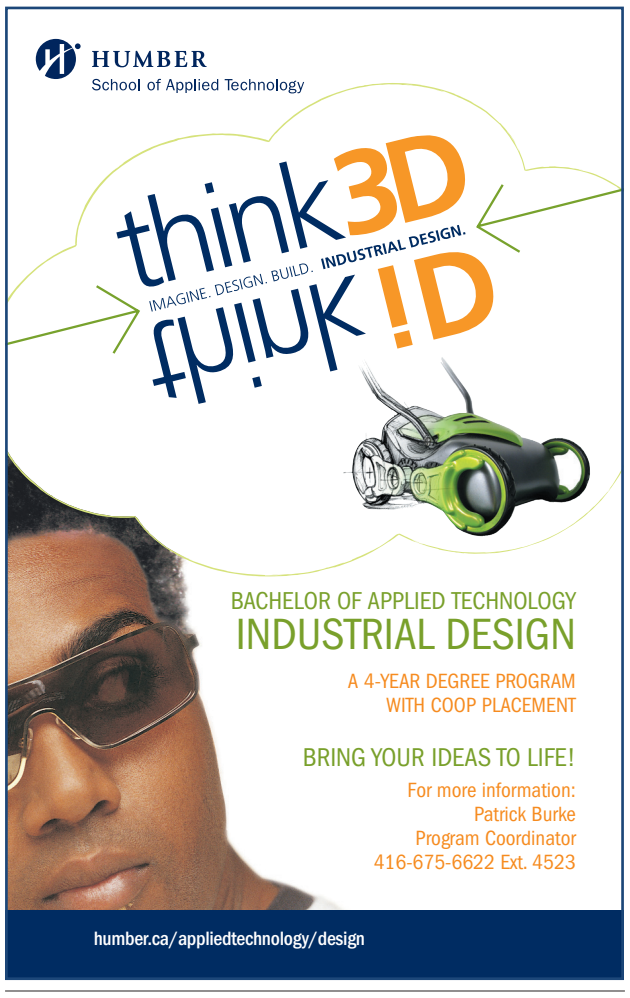
He finds rent is cheaper in Nova Scotia, but food costs more than in Ontario. "The real strong influence was the school and the more laid-back East Coast atmosphere."

Andrew Murray may have passed them en route. The Dartmouth man left Nova Scotia to take a communications degree in radio and television arts at Ryerson University in Toronto.

"I definitely didn't leave Halifax because I hate it, or anything. I love it to death, actually," the first-year student said. His main motivation was the particular program offered at Ryerson. "The choice to leave home is a big decision. Education is a huge investment, and you've really got to sit down and think about what is best for you. By leaving home and living somewhere else, you are instantly tacking an additional $10,000 a year onto your loan."

It's hard personally, too. Murray said he had to drop everything he had, friends and family, and start anew. He has no regrets.

"If your dream is half way across the country, then go get it," he said.



These lectures enlighten while they entertain

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

It's Saturday night in southwest Toronto. As people begin rolling into Peter Stevens' side street studio, he reminds the event is BYOB, but there's an LCBO across the street in case anyone's come empty handed. Throbbing hip-hop bass subtly permeates the walls from a neighbouring unit, but it's little match for Stevens. "I get excited so I get loud," he says eagerly with a feverish smile, "I can feel it already coming!"

What's to come isn't your typically inebriated Saturday night. It's the latest chapter in Stevens' bi-weekly KnowMore Lectures series; an informal, entertaining gathering where the teacher and amateur comedian (under alias Nemo Daly) aims to take the elitism out of education.

"I really believe the academic system is bloated by people trying to coin phrases, and it's not helpful to understanding," says Stevens, who also teaches five months of the year at MEI International Academy, a secondary school that sends students overseas to learn courses at the actual locations that inform them. "I had a great friend who said, 'Any philosophy should be able to be a children's book.' And I thought, 'No, some ideas are too complex' … No they're not — what a joke!" he says.

Stevens hour-and-a-half lectures demystify otherwise confusing topics to reveal easily understandable ones, using pared down layman terms and examples at a digestible pace. "You learn more in a night with me than a year in high school or a year in university," Stevens, who admits he never really learned anything in university, professes. "It's information, simply put. And we're not used to that."

Students also aren't used to the addition of laughs to lecture. Describing the Cold War in a lecture on communism versus capitalism as, "a big c— -swinging contest on the international stage" plus character impersonations and improvised audience interaction are commonplace in Stevens' optimistic, often-hysterical delivery.

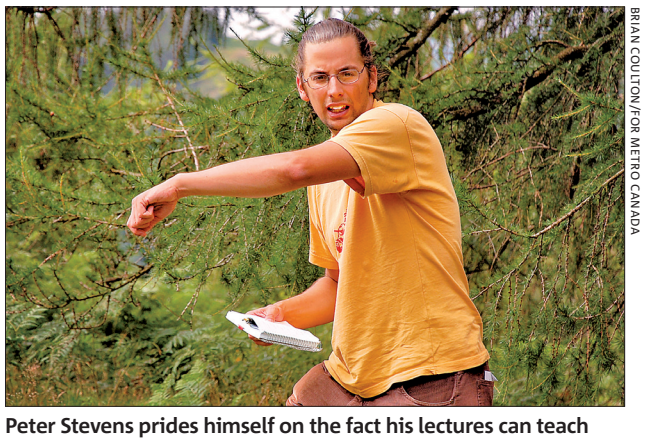
"There's something to hearing it from someone who has all the context and can guide you through and make it entertaining," he says. "I am a performer. I have a good presence. So what's better than this?"

Some would argue the price tag is better. At just $5 per lecture, attendees dodge characteristically expensive tuition costs because Stevens considers the series a hobby he only desires to break even on. And of his students, he only desires understanding and retelling.

"You can't take credit for anything they do, but now they're empowered. They can't be overcome by some sleaze trying to impress them with their knowledge of Nietzsche. Helping people feel that they're never out of their element, I think it's a great thing."

Up next

- Stevens' next lecture, All the Philosophy ("Get the lowdown on the key players for your philosophy Fantasy Draft!") takes place Thursday at 8 p.m. For more details, check out the KnowMore Lectures online at knowmorelectures.blogspot.com.



BRIAN COULTON/FOR METRO CANADA

Peter Stevens prides himself on the fact his lectures can teach anyone anything in an accessible manner.

College & University 2009

Queen's partners with St. Lawrence

Queen's University and St. Lawrence College have created an innovative, one-of-a-kind educational partnership that will help fill the shortfall in technology teachers for school boards across the province, a Queen's news release says.

St. Lawrence College graduates with appropriate work experience in skilled trades and technology can earn their Technological Education Diploma in one year at Queen's Faculty of Education.

Expected to start in January 2009, the Queen's University Faculty of Education/St. Lawrence College concurrent program in technological education will help students transition from the workforce back to college and university on the path to becoming high school teachers.

"This is a step forward in our efforts to link the Faculty of Education at Queen's to the community and its needs within the framework of our mission" says Queen's dean of education Rosa Bruno-Jofré. "Technological education has a central place in the Faculty and I am delighted to announce the partnership with St. Lawrence College and the new program."

"Training teachers for careers in technological education will ensure our province continues to meet the growing need for skilled workers."
Chris Whitaker, St. Lawrence College president

The Conference Board of Canada estimates that Ontario will face a shortage of more than 360,000 skilled employees by 2025, mostly due to retirement of baby boomers.

"Training teachers for careers in technological education will ensure our province continues to meet the growing need for skilled workers," says Chris Whitaker, President and CEO, St. Lawrence College.

The concurrent program in technological education will accept students with a variety of backgrounds, depending on their individual level of post-secondary education and work experience. Laid-off workers who are journeypersons, or who have combination of five years of post-secondary technology education and work experience will be able to access the program under Ontario's Second Career Strategy launched last year.

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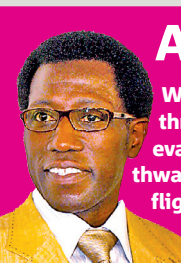
Gossip Girl spinoff in the works
Dawn Ostroff, president of CW entertainment, admits the network is in discussions with Gossip Girl producers about commissioning a spinoff of the hit show. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment



Actor's appeal

Wesley Snipes is appealing his three-year prison sentence for tax evasion, arguing his work to thwart terrorists (teaching airline flight crews martial arts) makes him a national hero. IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

weekend box office

1. **Four Christmases:** $18.2 million US
2. **Twilight:** $13.2 million
3. **Bolt:** $9.7 million
4. **Australia:** $7 million
5. **Quantum of Solace:** $6.6 million
6. **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa:** $5.1 million
7. **Transporter 3:** $4.5 million
8. **Punisher: War Zone:** $4 million
9. **Cadillac Records:** $3.5 million
10. **Role Models:** $2.6 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

CRIME Boy George, the flamboyant former frontman of the 1980s pop group Culture Club, was convicted Friday of falsely imprisoning a male escort.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Film is punishment

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Punisher: War Zone

Director: Lexi Alexander
Stars: Ray Stevenson, Dominic West
Class: 18A
Rating: ●

Punisher: War Zone brings the comic book to the big screen again.

REVIEW Punisher: War Zone is the third attempt to bring the violent vigilante comic book character to the big screen, and by this latest example, the third time is not always the charm.

For those unschooled in the ways of the Punisher, he is Frank Castle (Ray Stevenson of HBO's Rome), an ex-marine set on ridding the world of corruption after the murder of his wife and child.

In War Zone, we catch up to the Punisher taking on Billy Russoti (Dominic West of 300), a devilish crime boss who was grossly disfigured at the hands of Castle. Set on retribution, Russoti renames himself Jigsaw — his face looks like a moth-eaten quilt after all — and assembles an army of (inept) assailants to avenge the Punisher.

Basically, this movie aims to please the sort of movie fans who rate the excessiveness of a bad guy being impaled with a chair leg slightly higher than engaging screenplays or restrained performances.

So, with that in mind, I prefer to highlight who this film might be for: If you like action that borders on campy but isn't convincing enough to seem intentionally so, this movie's for you.

If you like a villain attempting to emulate the intensity of Heath Ledger's The Joker, but instead achieving a level of depth expected more from the likes of Steven Seagal, this movie's for you.

If you want to see a fat dude on a toilet get his head blown apart by a hollow-point gunshot, this movie's for you. Simply put, if you want to punish yourself at the theatre, then this movie's for you.

Screentimes

- **DOWNTOWN**: Yonge-Eg Centre, Mon-Thu 12:50-3:40-7:50-10:20; Yonge & Dundas, Mon-Thu 2:10-3:10-4:10-5:10-6:10-7:10-8:10-9:10-10:10
- **WEST END**: Queensway, Mon-Thu 12:55-4-7-10; Woodbine, Mon-Thu 1-4-6:45-9:15;
- **NORTH YORK**: Empress Walk, Mon-Thu 4:20-7:30-10; SilverCity Yorkdale, Mon-Thu 1-4:20-7:15-10:15; SilverCity Fairview, Mon-Wed 7:50-10:30
- **SCARBOROUGH**: Coliseum, Mon-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:15; Eglinton Town Centre, Mon-Thu 4:40-7:40-10:20; 401 & Morningside, Mon-Thu 4:30-7-10
- **PEEL REGION**: Coliseum 10, Mon-Thu 1:15-4-7:15-10:15; Courtney Park, Mon-Thu 2-2:30-4:30-5-7-7:30-9:45-10:15
- **NORTH**: Orion Gate Grande, Mon-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:30; Aurora Cinemas, Mon-Thu 7-9:40; Colossus 19, Mon-Thu 4:10-4:40-7:10-7:40-10-10:30; Elgin Mills Cinemas, Mon-Thu 7:20-9:30; First Markham Place, Mon-Thu 7:25-9:55; SilverCity Newmarket, Mon 7:05-10:05 Tue 4:25-7:05-10:05 Wed-Thu 7:05-10:05; SilverCity Richmond Hill, Mon-Thu 4-7-9:45
- **HALTON**: SilverCity Burlington, Mon-Thu 7:45-10:30; SilverCity Brampton, Mon-Thu 4:20-7:10-10:10
- **DURHAM**: Ajax Mon-Thu 6:30-9:40; Pickering 8 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:40; Whitby 24 Mon-Thu 2:15-3:15-4:45-5:45-7:15-8:15-9:45

Oprah will not work for Obama

Winfrey

PEOPLE Although Oprah Winfrey worked hard on Barack Obama's presidential election campaign, she never considered going to work for the president-elect's administration, the talk-show host said.

"I have a few full-time jobs already and a few full-time commitments, you know — contractual commitments that say I have to be where I am," she said. "So, it never ever occurred to me."

Winfrey said she would stay put, even if the president-elect came calling.

Police seek pair in Ruffalo shooting

PEOPLE Police are seeking two people they want to question about the shooting of actor Mark Ruffalo's brother.

A publicist for Mark Ruffalo confirmed that the actor's 39-year-old brother Scott was clinging to life after being shot in the head early Monday. Police said he remains in critical condition. The Beverly Hills Police Department said they want to question the pair, Brian Scofield and Shaha Mishaal Adham, as part of an attempted murder investigation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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No speed for Reeves
Keanu Reeves says if film bosses insist on making a third Speed film, he won't be involved. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Potter encyclopedia to still be released

A Harry Potter fan and website operator said Friday he's going ahead with publishing an encyclopedia, despite losing a copyright-infringement lawsuit filed by the author of the massively popular book series.

Steven Vander Ark said during a news conference at a bookstore that Muskegon-based RDR Books will publish The Lexicon: An Unauthorized Guide to Harry Potter Fiction and Related Materials on Jan. 12.

Author J.K. Rowling and Warner Bros., maker of the Harry Potter films and owner of intellectual property rights to the Potter books and movies, sued RDR Books in 2007 to stop the publication of a similar volume by Vander Ark.

A federal judge in New York ruled in favour of Rowling in September, permanently blocking publication of that reference guide. He also awarded Rowling and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. $6,750 US in statutory damages.

RDR Books appealed the court ruling last month but withdrew the appeal on Thursday.

Vander Ark, a former school librarian who launched The Harry Potter Lexicon website in 2000, and his publisher say the revised version meets specifications for such a book laid out in the judge's ruling. He said he spent five or six months working on the revision following the three-day court hearing in April.

> **"There was no law on the books that made it clear what was acceptable and what wasn't."**
> Steven Vander Ark

During the trial, the small publisher did not contest that the lexicon infringes on Rowling's copyright, but argued it was a fair use allowable by law for reference books. The judge ruled Vander Ark went too far.

When he blocked publication in September, U.S. District Judge Robert P. Patterson said the "lexicon appropriates too much of Rowling's creative work for its purposes as a reference guide."

"We learned a lot at the trial about what was acceptable, what would follow the fair use guidelines," said Vander Ark, 50. "That was not clear before. There was no law on the books that made it clear what was acceptable and what wasn't. So, coming out of the trial, I had a much better idea of what should go into the book."

RDR Books publisher Roger Rapoport said the biggest difference between the two versions is that the revision contains "a lot more critical commentary, which means more analysis."

"It isn't just saying what happens, it's his interpretation of why it's important," Rapoport said.

Vander Ark also removed plot spoilers from his book, in adherence to the court's instructions, Rapoport said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Guitarist suing band Coldplay

IN COURT A noted guitarist has sued members of Coldplay, claiming the band's smash hit Viva La Vida copied parts of one of his songs.

The copyright infringement lawsuit by Joe Satriani was filed Thursday in federal court in Los Angeles.

The 52-year-old claims Coldplay copied "substantial, original portions" of his 2004 song, If I Could Fly. The Coldplay hit, which was nominated for a Grammy this week, has topped charts around the world and been used to sell iPods in commercials.

Representatives for the band and their label, Capitol Records, did not return calls seeking comment on Friday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

IN COURT A judge in Phoenix has issued a bench warrant for the arrest of rapper DMX after he failed to show up in court Friday morning. It was the second time DMX, whose real name is Earl Simmons, has missed an appearance. He is facing charges of drug possession, identity theft and animal cruelty.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aussie film award

Australian actor Heath Ledger, who died in January, has been posthumously named best actor for his role as The Joker in The Dark Knight by the Australian Film Institute. **BBC NEWS ONLINE**

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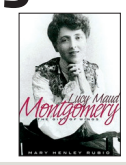
ADVANCING GENERICS

Chronicling Ledger's all-too-brief life

Heath Ledger: **Hollywood's Dark Star**

Author: Brian J. Robb
Publisher: Plexus
Price: $25.95 (Paperback)

From playing a gay cyclist on Australian high school television drama Sweat to unhinged Batman villain The Joker in blockbuster The Dark Knight, Heath Ledger: Hollywood's Dark Star documents the actor's career, cut short by his premature death last year. The book is part biography and part photographic retrospective, covering Ledger's career and personal life since his acting debut, and observing his transition from teen heartthrob to Hollywood A-lister.

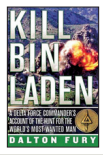


Lucy Maud Montgomery: **The Gift of Wings**

Author: Mary Henley Rubio
Publisher: Doubleday Canada
Price: $39.95 (Hardcover)

In Mary Henley Rubio's latest work detailing the life of Canadian writer Lucy Maud Montgomery, she draws on 20 years of her research on the author to construct an exhaustive biography. Rubio combines findings from Montgomery's journals and previously unpublished interviews with now-deceased sources. The result is a portrait that leaves little to the imagination.

BookPicks



Kill **Bin Laden**

Author: Dalton Fury
Publisher: St. Martin's Press
Price: $28.95 (Hardcover)

After 9/11, U.S. President George W. Bush's pledge to find and kill Osama bin Laden prompted the secretive Delta Force — about 40 of the country's finest intelligence and military personnel — to embark on a mission that still hasn't succeeded. Former Delta Force commander Dalton Fury uses extensive jargon and an account of the critical Battle of Tora Bora to flesh out his account of the elite unit's actions.

BRIAN COULTON/FOR METRO CANADA

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Sutherland's star
Actor Kiefer Sutherland is to be honoured with the 2,377th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame tomorrow. IMDB.COM

Saddam's soap opera

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

Yigal Naor

HUSSEIN ASYLUM: HBO Canada premiered the first two hours of House Of Saddam last night, half of the 4-hour miniseries dramatizing the reign of the late Saddam Hussein from his seizure of the presidency in 1979 to his death in 2006.

Perhaps because it was HBO — in association with the BBC — who put together the project, it's not surprising that the majority of the reviews have compared the show, and Yigal Naor's performance as Saddam, to The Sopranos, when they haven't been comparing it with The Godfather or Scarface.

It's a thickly curdled soap opera, cast with everyone from an Israeli (Naor), to an Italian-American (Philip Arditti as Uday Hussein, Saddam's psychopath son), and a Persian Oscar nominee (Shohreh Aghdashloo), and seemingly every actor who's been seen portraying an Arab in films large and small over the past decade or so, glimpsed in major roles or cameos.

It's possibly the most spoiler-proof film made in a generation; even political shut-ins should know the ending of this story.

Four hours gives the directors and writers behind the series room to shoehorn in as much as they can, from the opening, with its conspicuous parallel to the opening wedding party scene in the first Godfather film, to the King Lear-like passage at the end where Saddam wanders through American-held Iraq, attended by a loyal servant and a little boy and harassed by ants.

In this final stretch, the film does its best to humanize the Iraqi dictator, but after everything we've seen so far, it actually feels more disturbing than the horror of ambition and delusion that preceded it. There's a relentless heaviness to the whole affair, set largely by Naor's rumbling impersonation of Saddam, which more than a few reviewers have compared to Darth Vader.

Most people won't have the stomach to make it to the end of all four hours (the second half airs next Sunday), and opponents of the U.S. invasion of Iraq won't find much to bolster the alternative with the painstaking dramatization of every bloody convulsion of Saddam's Stalinesque career.

The cast can take a good deal of credit for this —while some reviewers were clearly expecting a Dallas on the Euphrates, the performances of Naor, Arditti and Aghdashloo as well as the rest of the cast make things less lurid than vivid.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

In brief

THEATRE The Canadian Stage Company is holding a one-day-only holiday sale. All regularly priced tickets for It's a Wonderful Life will be available for $25 over a 25-hour period. The special price is available for evening performances on Dec. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 16. There is no limit to the number of tickets that may be purchased. The sale begins at 10 a.m. today and continues to 11 a.m. tomorrow. Patrons are required to quote the promotional code "25 for 25" to receive the special offer. Visit canstage.com, call 416-368-3110, or drop by the Bluma Appel Theatre Box Office (27 Front St. E.) or the Berkeley Street Theatre Box Office (26 Berkeley St.).

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
	265	353	2 TVO	Time Team "Hartlepool"		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Midsomer Murders		To Build a Nation		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Prison Break (HDTV) (N)		Heroes "Our Father" (N)		My Own Worst Enemy		News (N)
	215	343	4 OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragon's Den (N)		The Border (HDTV) (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Privileged (HDTV) (N)		Curb-Enthsm	Less-Kind	News (N)
	212	313	8 CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	Big Bang Th	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	218	345	11 E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Worst Week	How I Met	Boston Legal "Made in China; Last Call" (N)				News (N)
	137	763	13 TFO	Panorama		Astroboy à Roboland		*Les Temps qui changent* ★★ (2004)			Folie-aventure	Croisée
	-	-	14 -	Cold Case "Committed"		News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends	Small Places
	213	326	15 SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Cricket on the Hearth		One Tree Hill		To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
	-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Worst Week	CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Heroes "Our Father" (N)		My Own Worst Enemy		News (N)
	-	386	18 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	A Charlie Brown Christmas		Boston Legal "Made in China; Last Call" (N)				News
	219	346	20 ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Sarah Connor Chronicles		Two/Half Men	(9:31) *Adam Sandler's Eight Crazy Nights*			News (N)
	-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Sarah Connor Chronicles		Prison Break (HDTV) (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	Time Goes By	Celtic Woman: The Greatest Journey -- Holiday Special				Sharing Christmas		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330 WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		Privileged (HDTV) (N)		CW11 News at Ten (N)		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331 SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332 TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Gossip Girl (N)
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Pedigree Dogs Exposed		National
news	500	500	33 CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
news	509	504	79 CNB	CNBC Reports				Cash Flow		Saving GM: Inside the Crisis		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22 net	Hockeycentral	NHL Hockey New York Islanders at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)					Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
sports	400	400	30 TSN	That's Hockey!	Monday Night Countdown		NFL Football Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Carolina Panthers. (HDTV) (Live)					
sports	411	457	58 OLN	Ed's Up	Videos	Pilot Guides		Mantracker		Departures		Pilot Guides
sports	417	406	81 SC	Pinks	Pass Time	NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Banquet (N)			My Classic Car	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy
family	551	542	25 YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Fresh Prince	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline Proj	Mystery Hnt.
family	554	544	45 TEL	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Life's a Zoo
family	556	540	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27 W	Will & Grace	Friends	How Clean	House	Love It or List It (N)		Confidential	Kim	Save Us-House
cable variety	570	580	29 MM	Meet Barkers	Meet Barkers	Pimp My Ride	Pimp My Ride	50 Cent: Money and Power		MuchNews	The NewMusic	MuchVibe
cable variety	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami "The Oath"		Intervention In-Depth: Meth		Intervention "Coley"		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48
cable variety	700	800	35 TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Se Forte Maestro		Distretto Di Polizia		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
cable variety	571	581	36 MMM	mmmtop	Revival	Listed		Parental Advis.	Parental Advis.	Where You At	Revival	Party of Five
cable variety	575	583	38 CMT	Live & Up Front: Doc Walker		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Gone Country
cable variety	616	521	39 SHO	Love-Death	Love-Death	Painkiller Jane		Kenny-Spenny	Rent-A-Goalie	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	The Office
cable variety	620	523	40 BVO	Desperate Housewives		Ahead of the Curve		Liberamae	Opium	Dance Atlantic	Dance With Me	Law & Order
cable variety	601	562	41 SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Beautiful	Party Mamas	Tim Gunn's Guide to Style (N)		ET Canada
cable variety	522	506	43 HIS	NCIS "Mind Games"		Battle 360 "Call to Duty"		Underworld Histories		NCIS "Mind Games"		Crime Stories
cable variety	625	548	44 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Dennis Leary Merry F...'in		Daily Show
cable variety	600	564	46 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	My First Place	Home to Stay	Property Virgin	Marriage	Income Prop.	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
cable variety	294	529	47 TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*Fools Rush In* ★★ (1997, Comedy-Drama) Matthew Perry.				Cheers	Seinfeld	Family Guy
cable variety	576	582	49 BET	106 & Park	*Hair Show* ★ (2004, Comedy) Mo'Nique, Kellita Smith, Gina Torres.					Keyshia Cole	Keyshia Cole	Judge Hatchett
cable variety	627	528	50 SPC	Lost		Star Trek		Battlestar Galactica		Eureka		Stargate SG-1
cable variety	581	566	52 MTV	The Hills	After Show	MTV News	Cribs	Super Sweet	The Hills	The Hills	After Show	MTV Live
cable variety	618	524	54 TROP	TV Made, Do It	Very Bad Men		What Happen?	Make or Break	TV Made, Do It	Planet Soap	Reality	Final 24
cable variety	603	561	56 FOOD	The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Good Eats	Ace of Cakes	Kitchen Nightmares		Restaurant
cable variety	261	394	60 V	Murder, She Wrote		Prime Minister	May-December	The Waltons "The Star"		Emily of New Moon		Med. Woman
cable variety	621	527	63 STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Scream Queens		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
cable variety	553	546	65 TRE	Bob-Bldr	Nght Grdn	Wonder Pets	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Christopher	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
cable variety	115	711	101 TVA	Shrek	Bloopers TVA	Le Québec vote La soirée électorale. (N)						
cable variety	126	730	102 RDI	(6:30) Éléctions Québec 2008: le choix Présentation des résultats des éléctions.								
cable variety	526	507	249 VIVA	Judging Amy "Instincts"		Commander In Chief		The West Wing		Truth, Duty, Valour		Mediums
cable variety	300	601	301 M1	Sanctuary "The Five"		Stargate Atlantis (N)		Californication	True Blood	Brotherhood (N)		Sanctuary
cable variety	305	612	306 PIX	*Ararat* ★★ (2002, Historical Drama) David Alpay.				*Wayne's World* ★★ (1992, Comedy)			(10:45) *Wayne's World 2*	

critics'corner

Christopher House: Ahead of the Curve
Dance! Modern dance choreographer Christopher House is the subject of this documentary directed by his sister Rosemary. She follows him as he creates "TimeCode Break" and gets him talking about his childhood. House joined the Toronto Dance Theatre in 1978 and has created more than 50 works for the group. 8 PM on BVO

Daily Planet
Check out the science news show's "Tech Toys Week." It's a showcase for all kinds of weird and wonderful inventions — although most aren't available for purchase unless you're a billionaire. That includes a solar car covered in crystals. 7 PM on DIS

Chuck
Chuck spies on Sarah and finds her on a date with an older man. Chuck tries to warn her after he has an Intersect flash, but she assures him that she is not in danger. Meanwhile, Anna wants to move into an apartment with Morgan, forcing him to act like an adult. 8 PM on NBC CITY

Amy Jo gives birth
Actress Amy Jo Johnson has welcomed her first child, a daughter. Francesca Christine was born at 9:09 p.m. last week, weighing 7 lbs., 1 oz. Dad is Johnson's fiancé Olivier Giner, 33. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Milano files for restraining order

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

LEGAL Actress Alyssa Milano has filed for a restraining order against an alleged stalker after he reportedly tried to break into her home on two occasions, imdb.com reports.

Milano filed the petition in Los Angeles Superior Court on Friday claiming Jeff Turner, 54, has made frequent attempts to contact her over a two-year period, including trying to enter her L.A. home without permission.

According to E! News, the documents accuse Turner of being an "obsessed and mentally unstable fan" who has made statements "indicating that unless restrained the conduct is very likely to continue."

Milano also asks for the restraining order to prevent Turner from having contact with her immediate family, and that he must stay at least 100 yards from her and her home at all times.

An L.A. court hearing to decide if the order will be granted is set for Jan. 21.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Love at first sight

RELATIONSHIPS Tom Cruise fell in love with Katie Holmes at first sight and rushed off to buy an engagement ring after their first date, imdb.com reports.

The actors' relationship has been subjected to much scrutiny by the public and media critics who have speculated their union was arranged and their romance is a farce.

But Cruise insists their marriage is the real deal and he has been in love with Holmes since he first set eyes on her.

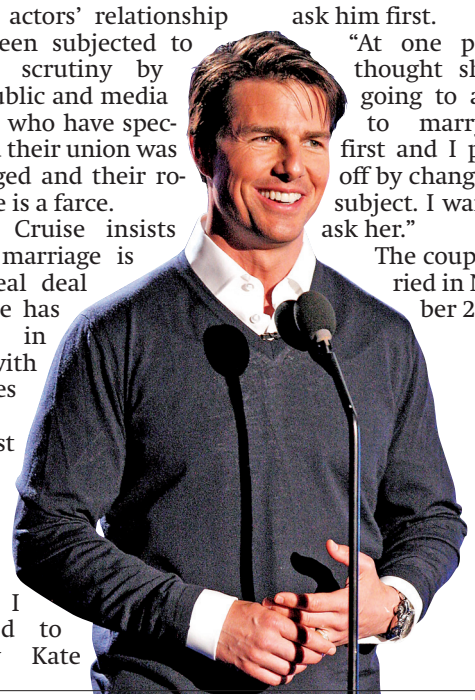
"I knew I wanted to marry Kate when I met her," Cruise tells the Dec. 7 issue of the New York Times Style Magazine.

He admits he proposed in a hurry in 2005, because he feared Holmes would ask him first.

"At one point, I thought she was going to ask me to marry her first and I put her off by changing the subject. I wanted to ask her."

The couple married in November 2006.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Kidman credits age for bravery

PEOPLE Actress Nicole Kidman is embracing her 40s, because she is braver now than she has ever been, imdb.com reports.

The Oscar winner faced a tough time as she took on her role in Baz Luhrmann's epic Australia, in which she had to live and shoot in the harsh conditions of the Australian outback. But the 41-year-old is adamant being a mature woman helped her cope with the extreme conditions, insisting she gains more courage with age.

"The older I get, the more I feel like I'm on a roller-coaster when I do a film," she tells Britain's The Independent newspaper.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Goodwin, Klein split

BREAKUP Ginnifer Goodwin and Chris Klein have called it quits after two years of dating, People.com reports.

A friend of Goodwin tells People the split was mutual and amicable.

"They realized they wanted different things," says the friend. "In the long run, the relationship wasn't going to work."

With a busy winter ahead for Goodwin, 30, who returns to HBO's Big Love in January and stars in He's Just Not That Into You, opening in February, the actress plans to enjoy the single life for the time being.

"She's not interested in dating anyone just yet," the friend says.

Klein, 29, is also busy with work, returning to big screen in Street Fighter in February.

Reps for Klein and Goodwin did not return calls for comment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Beyoncé talks about marriage

RELATIONSHIPS R&B singer Beyoncé Knowles has confessed her marriage to Jay-Z is often a "power struggle," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Knowles, who wed the rapper in April, admits being part of a superstar couple is tough. But she insists she loves the pair's testing relationship, and would be "bored" without a headstrong husband.

"My marriage is a power struggle," she says. "But if I didn't respect someone and they didn't have that strength, then I would be bored. I wouldn't be attracted to them."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bynes won't date actors

RELATIONSHIPS Actress Amanda Bynes has vowed never to date another actor after an ex-boyfriend's cheating ways nearly "killed" her, imdb.com reports.

Bynes, 22, tells American Cosmopolitan magazine she was so shaken after her split with an unnamed actor she moved back in with her parents for two months to soothe her heartache.

"(He) ended up breaking my heart. I was so hurt. I'm a confident person, but it killed me," Bynes said.

Though she admits she's turned on by Hollywood's leading men, Bynes refuses to be another actor's arm candy.

"Obviously, Chace Crawford is gorgeous, but I wouldn't want to date him. He's too pretty. Maybe he's a very smart guy and maybe he's my soulmate but that's not the type I go for," Bynes added.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Richie makes Joel go on diet

RELATIONSHIPS Nicole Richie has put her boyfriend Joel Madden on a diet, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The reality TV star, who has a 10-month-old daughter Harlow with Madden, has reportedly banned the Good Charlotte rocker from eating calorific foods because he has piled on the pounds since becoming a father in January.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Pregnancy hard for Paltrow

HEALTH Gwyneth Paltrow is scared to have more children with rocker husband Chris Martin, because pregnancy makes her violently ill, imdb.com reports.

The actress is keen to expand the couple's family, but had to tough it out while expecting Apple, 4, and two-year-old Moses.

"In theory I'd love to (have more)," Paltrow says.

"But it's really hard for me when I'm pregnant — I'm sick as a dog for months. Sometimes I think, 'Oh my God, I want another one right now, I'll sustain any amount of vomiting or whatever. And then sometimes I think, 'Gosh, everyone's sleeping through the night now.'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Most influential woman

CAREER Oprah Winfrey is a talk-show host, magazine editor, philanthropist and icon, so it should come as no wonder she was named the most influential woman in the entertainment industry in the Hollywood Reporter's Women in Entertainment: Power 100 list, People.com reports.

Winfrey was chosen "based on her dizzying array of Oprah-branded media and her immense cultural influence," the trade publication's editor-in-chief Elizabeth Guider said in a statement.

Meanwhile, actress Angelina Jolie topped the list of the highest-paid actresses.

Jolie, whose 2008 movies grossed nearly $1 billion US worldwide, commands more than $15 million a movie.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Miller and wife welcome a son

FAMILY Jonny Lee Miller of TV's Eli Stone and his wife, actress Michele Hicks, have welcomed a son, his rep confirmed to People.

Buster Timothy Miller was born Wednesday in Los Angeles, weighing in at 9 lbs.

Miller, 36, and Hicks, 35, who has appeared on The Shield, were married earlier this year. This is their first child.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Take Five

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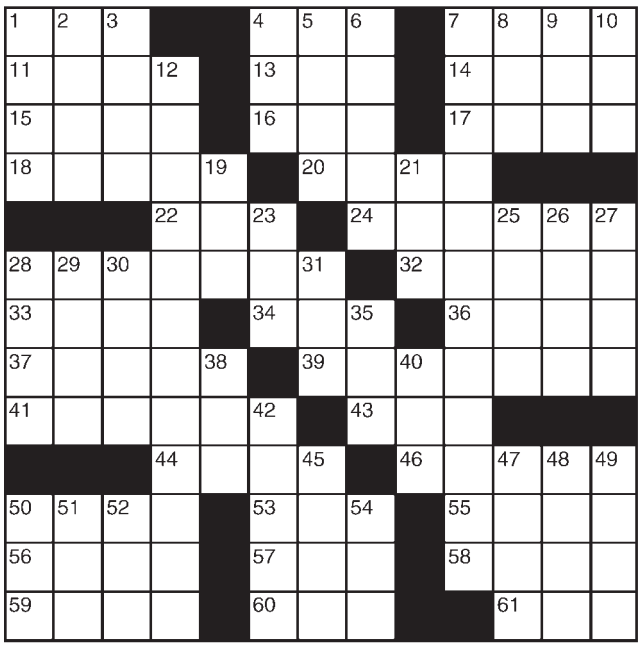


Crossword across

1 Emotional one?
4 Watch chain
7 Pop duo, — and Jeremy
11 Magnificent tale
13 Nev. neighbor
14 Firetruck necessity
15 Opulent
16 Actor McBride
17 Church section
18 Recovery regimen
20 Cold War initials
22 Like 20-Across
24 Brunei bigwig
28 Hot water tanks
32 Liberace's instrument
33 Con
34 Assenter's vote
36 Sea eagle
37 Superman comparison
39 DeNiro's "Analyze This" co-star
41 Glum
43 — -jongg
44 Clarinet insert
46 Skewered entree
50 Nil
53 Have a bug
55 Therefore
56 State with certainty
57 Weep
58 Roman lyre player
59 Menial toiler
60 Golf prop
61 Apply lightly

Crossword down

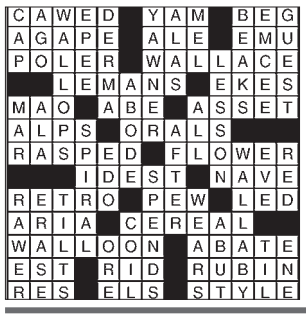
1 Frau's mister
2 "... blackbirds, baked in —"
3 St. with two peninsulas
4 Govt. agcy.
5 Hawaiian island
6 Great joy
7 "Two and a Half Men" actor
8 Bound
9 Donkey
10 Ruby or Sandra
12 Snoopy's owner
19 Spelling contest
21 Dine
23 Parched
25 Bakery offering
26 Kournikova of tennis
27 Christmas refrain
28 Low voice
29 Aware of
30 Detail
31 Moment
35 Branch
38 Shelter
40 Tibetan critter
42 Do a double take
45 Catastrophic
47 Raised
48 Taj Mahal city
49 Nitwit
50 Use a ray gun
51 She raised Cain
52 Kanga's kid
54 Caustic solution

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	4	7	9			6		
	3			4		1		
	1		3		6			
			5				3	
4			1		8			5
	9				2			
			8		3		2	
		8		7			5	
		1			9	4	6	

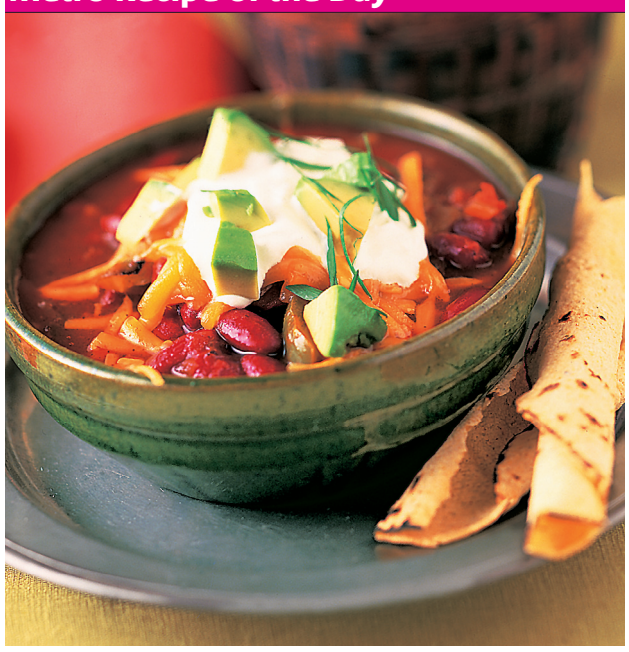
PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



6	3	4	1	8	7	2	5	9
9	8	5	3	4	2	6	7	1
7	2	1	5	6	9	4	3	8
8	9	2	6	7	5	1	4	3
4	6	7	8	1	3	9	2	5
1	5	3	9	2	4	7	8	6
2	1	9	7	3	8	5	6	4
5	7	8	4	9	6	3	1	2
3	4	6	2	5	1	8	9	7

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Chili Beef Pots with Cheese

INGREDIENTS:
1 lb (500 g) lean ground beef
1 large onion, finely chopped
1 large green or red bell pepper, seeded and finely chopped
2 large garlic cloves, crushed
1 large can (400 g) chopped tomatoes
2/3 cup (150 mL) beef stock
1 large can (420 g) red kidney beans, drained and rinsed
1/2 tsp (2 mL) chili powder
1/2 tsp (2 mL) ground cumin
1/4 tsp (1 mL) ground cinnamon
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1/2 cup (125 mL) old cheddar, grated

TO SERVE:
Sour cream
Diced avocado
Chopped fresh coriander leaves
Soft flour tortillas, warmed

METHOD:
1. Put ground beef in a large, dry frying pan and brown over medium heat, for about 4–5 minutes.
2. Add onion, bell pepper and garlic and cook 5 minutes until onion is softened. Stir in tomatoes, stock, beans and spices. Bring to boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes. Season to taste.
3. Ladle hot chili into individual bowls and sprinkle with cheese.
4. Serve topped with sour cream, diced avocado and chopped coriander, with warmed tortillas on the side.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Frustration arises when confirming details of a message. Good humour is damaged by disagreements. Someone is at odds with your nature.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Confusion about a close friend is tiring. Don't lend or borrow money. Emotional patterns are obvious concerning a family quarrel.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't rush into a romantic fantasy. An adviser has a positive impact on your decisions. People comment on how lenient you are.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A family member suggests better arrangements. People's problems interfere with communications. A buddy wants to do something special.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
If Fate throws you a lemon — make lemonade. Focus on a goal for a job-related task. The least likely person will make you happy.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A foolish schemer is amusing, for a change. Set your boundaries firmly in place. Look within to make a personal discovery.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Refuse to be intimidated by a loved one. The intensity of tension leads to snippy remarks. A friend's depression is worsening.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Something peculiar causes the interception of a message. Don't hide your head in the sand. A late night chat gives a satisfying sleep.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Falling madly in love is a viable option. Money is recovered in unexpected ways. All will be well with an ailing person.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don't expect a simple resolution to your doubts. A contemptuous person starts asking probing questions. Beneficial events develop in obscurity.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Everything works out as planned. Affection brings good cheer and renewed energy. An offensive person suffers humiliation.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Why the fittest survive will become clear. You don't want to know the ugly truth. Flee from an over-confident idealist.

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